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BOOK REVIEWS

TEXT-BOOK OF ANATOMY FOR NURSES. By Elizabeth R. Bundy, M.D., Member of the Medical Staff of the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia; Gynecologist New Jersey Training-school Vineland; late Adjunct Professor of Anatomy, and Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania; formerly Superintendent of Connecticut Training-school for Nurses, New Haven, etc. With a Glossary and 191 Illustrations, 34 of which are Printed in Colors. Price, \$1.75, net. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co.

This book, coming after the excellent works on the same subject by Kimber and Lewis, will prove to be a disappointment to students who expect to be carried farther afield in the study of anatomy.

While it is charmingly written and one feels constantly assured of the authority of the writer, the style is so simple as to be foolish when addressed to women who have, it is presumed, been taught the structure of the human body some years before graduating from public school. To any student who has studied Chapter XII, on Respiration, in Kimber's Anatomy, the following extract must read like kindergarten instruction: "What happens to the air in the lungs? The air which we breathe contains oxygen, nitrogen, and water. The *oxygen* is needed by the body. It passes through the thin walls of the air cells and the delicate blood-vessels around them into the blood. At the same time carbon dioxid gas and some other matters pass from the blood into the *air-cells*; therefore there is a difference between *inspired* air and *expired* air. *Inspired air* contains, or should contain, much oxygen and little or no carbon dioxid; *expired air* contains less oxygen and much carbon dioxid, and it is also laden with vapor and particles of animal or organic matter, which may give it an offensive odor. Oxygen is food; carbon dioxid and the organic matters are poisonous wastes. What happens to the blood in the lungs? It comes to the lungs laden with certain waste elements and is called *impure*; it goes from the lungs relieved of this waste, and carrying oxygen instead; it is therefore called *pure*. It has been purified or aerated." (This last sentence in heavy black letter.)

Is there any woman so ignorant of the functions of the body as to need this simplicity of instruction? A child under ten years would doubtless need it, but hardly anyone of more advanced age. Side by

side with this much diluted matter, we find the tables of nerves, of arteries, and of veins which could not possibly be comprehended by anyone whose knowledge of anatomy had been imparted from the earlier portions of the book. It is distinctly mortifying to be asked to accept a book like this, implying a lack of education and even a lack of capacity for education, and this not to nurses alone but to all women of average intelligence. This is an age that rather prides itself on the practical and elective qualities of the education which girls and young women receive. The young people of this generation while they need not, as in former times, be taught piano at any cost, or the painting of bad pictures, or the making of wax flowers and antimacassers, at least know their geography better than did Columbus, and their circulation better than the greatest scientists who preceded Harvey. We seem to have struck a wave of retrograde influence that threatens to carry us a long way back again on the road which has been travelled with so much difficulty. It behooves us to stand firm and resist this sinister movement whether it manifests itself in the shorter course of training in our schools, the lowering of our scale of prices, or the adoption of books expurgated to puerility as in the present instance.

Doctor Bundy might revise the book, donating her charming little talk of the human anatomy to the grammar school, and giving to the nurses, for whom she professes sincere regard, the plates and the tables which are both an advance on what we have.

PLASTER OF PARIS AND HOW TO USE IT. By Martin W. Ware, M.D., Adjunct Attending Surgeon, Mount Sinai Hospital; Surgeon to the Good Samaritan Dispensary; Instructor in Surgery, New York Post-graduate Medical School. Twelve mo.; 72 Illustrations, about 100 pages. Cloth, \$1.00. Surgery Publishing Company, 92 William Street, New York.

The Surgery Publishing Company of New York has already given to the public a succession of bright, lively, and practical books which are particularly helpful and useful to nurses, although they are not addressed to the nursing profession. The latest to come to our notice, "Plaster of Paris and How to Use It," adds another to the list. There is always to be noted in these publications an air of novelty, an elimination of the practices which have fallen into disuse, and a fresh and modern way of approaching a subject, as though one were actually in a present day clinic. The first chapter deals with the plaster of Paris bandage, the quality of the plaster, the storage of plaster and bandages,